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| [View as a webpage / Share](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2NvbnRlbnQuZ292ZGVsaXZlcnkuY29tL2FjY291bnRzL1VTREFGQVJNRVJTL2J1bGxldGlucy8zMTY3YTEzIn0.AJGL3OO222iRhpBTWnnUaMpvJrErnVuqtq_ews0sg3Q/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l" \t "_blank) |
| |  | | --- | |  | | **Louisiana USDA-FSA Updates**  - May  2022 | |  | | In This Issue: | | * [New to Farming Because of the Pandemic? USDA Can Help](#link_12) * [USDA Offers Select County Livestock Producers Impacted by Drought Disaster Assistance](#link_13) * [Keeping Livestock Inventory Records](#link_6) * [Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation](#link_1) * [Malted Grains and Maple Syrup Eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loans](#link_4) * [Know your Final Planting Dates](#link_5) * [Transitioning Expiring CRP Land to Beginning, Veteran or Underserved Farmers and Ranchers](#link_2) * [Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security](#link_8) * [Disaster Set-Aside Program for Farm Loan Borrowers](#link_7) * [Overview of Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations](#link_3) * [USDA Packages Disaster Protection with Loans to Benefit Specialty Crop and Diversified Producers](#link_11) * [Current Interest Rates for May](#link_10) * [Important Dates](#link_9)  New to Farming Because of the Pandemic? USDA Can Help USDA Service Centers across the country, are hearing from people who are interested in more space and working the land and we want to let you know we can help. Are you new to farming because of the pandemic? USDA can help you get started in farming – on everything from helping you register your farm to getting financial assistance and advice. ****Get Started with USDA**** First, you want to make sure your farm is registered. If you purchased land, it might already be established with USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) with a farm number on file. If not, FSA can help you register your farm.  To obtain a farm number, you’ll bring an official tax ID (Social Security number or an employer ID) and a property deed. If you do not own the land, bring a lease agreement to your FSA representative to show you have control of the property. If your operation is incorporated or an entity, you may also need to provide proof that you have signature authority and the legal ability to enter into contracts with USDA. ****Access to Capital**** USDA can provide access to capital through its farm loans, which is a great resource when producers aren’t able to get a loan from a traditional lender. Loans can help with purchasing land or equipment or with operating costs, and FSA even offers microloans, which are especially popular among producers with smaller farms. For more information, [check out our Farm Loan Discovery Tool.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9mdW5kL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1kaXNjb3ZlcnktdG9vbD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.fRgFVvvOH6V9qoJxCeuxq4DdZECs6XdlB5t-zKluE6M/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) ****Conservation Practices**** We can help you make conservation improvements to your farm, which are good for your bottom line and your operation. We’ll help you develop a conservation plan and apply for financial assistance that’ll cover the bulk of the costs for implementing. To learn more about some of the conservation practices that we help producers with, [check out our Conservation at Work Video Series.](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9jb25zZXJ2ZS9jb25zZXJ2YXRpb24tYXQtd29yaz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.zkwi5zLl2U6Zp9PdRaLFIKjALvSkrQ9R5Bewv0xg-3Y/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l)  If you purchase land, and you don’t want to farm all of it, you can look at either a conservation easement or managing for native shrubs and grasses through either the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) or Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Easements are long-term, while a CRP contract is 10-15 years. These are good options for land that is not optimal for production or sensitive lands like wetlands and grasslands.  **Additional Resources**  Depending on your farm, you may want to look at crop insurance. The USDA’s Risk Management Agency provides crop insurance to help you manage risks on your farm. There are [many types of insurance products available](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5ybWEudXNkYS5nb3YvVG9waWNzL0JlZ2lubmluZy1GYXJtZXJzP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.HrcLTNUN8PI4jFMQAZEwLOUeHqwPN8u6fN21pvXdATM/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) for a wide variety of production practices, including organic and sustainable agriculture.  Your local communities also have great resources for farmers including conservation districts, Rural Development, cooperative extensions, and different farming groups. To get started with USDA, contact your local USDA service center. USDA Offers Select County Livestock Producers Impacted by Drought Disaster Assistance Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced that ranchers and livestock producers can apply for assistance from [the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..yJ6N5OCCb40ZTNqimFA2FgeDSNaSe9tD7GWaaAdxe9o/s/1120347379/br/130096544183-l?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) for grazing losses due to drought conditions that occurred in certain areas of Louisiana in 2022.  Please contact your local FSA Office to determine if you are located in an eligible area.  Eligible livestock include alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo/bison, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer or sheep that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland during the normal grazing period.  Producers must provide a completed application and supporting documents to their FSA office within 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred. Applicants should collect records documenting their losses and evidence that the grazing land or pastureland is owned or leased. Additional supporting documents include federal grazing permits and contract grower agreements  For more information, contact your local County FSA office.  Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including USDA resources specifically for producer impacted by [drought](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wcm90ZWN0aW9uLXJlY292ZXJ5L2Ryb3VnaHQ_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.DZ27crTbwj9xN9oOWLpAEFY2lI6m5476lpsr9wHB7so/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) and [wildfire](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9wcm90ZWN0aW9uLXJlY292ZXJ5L3dpbGRmaXJlP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.k6jGtYk_FlWmy9bgPQHlwjSULDohrEwtXFeZtRJEIZ8/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) and the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9ub2RlLzI4OTg5P3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.a1-qntmBxVMdPSygCpFMh4zaaAJSD9i8Phu50WRduUc/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9zaXRlcy9kZWZhdWx0L2ZpbGVzLzIwMjAtMDQvRlNBX0Rpc2FzdGVyQXNzaXN0YW5jZV9hdF9hX2dsYW5jZV9icm9jaHVyZV8ucGRmP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.l6xxL6Lyx3MrrMfGas9ZKXxwQBmh_MHycR2Z96Upv0k/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi9mdW5kL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1kaXNjb3ZlcnktdG9vbD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.Sybv7olAunwI7c9853PCpGQkPUUIWPu01xhh8kMQHeo/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZhcm1lcnMuZ292L3NlcnZpY2UtY2VudGVyLWxvY2F0b3I_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.UlY37wg560Zt1nRFOvgaZjVOQ8NIbG9cd1D7ej3-Mvc/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their [crop insurance agent](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..W33eVDdmZRom4fh4Jch7KRzEoA0eRLOXYQJQpW-NUqA/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). Keeping Livestock Inventory Records Livestock inventory records are necessary in the event of a natural disaster, so remember to keep them updated.  When disasters strike, the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) can help you if you’ve suffered excessive livestock death losses and grazing or feed losses due to eligible natural disasters.  To participate in livestock disaster assistance programs, you’ll be required to provide verifiable documentation of death losses resulting from an eligible adverse weather event and must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss of livestock is apparent. For grazing or feed losses, you must submit a notice of loss to your local FSA office within 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent and should maintain documentation and receipts.  You should record all pertinent information regarding livestock inventory records including:   * Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock * Beginning inventory supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts.   For more information on documentation requirements, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.hzbNsAYwn2cLR5nQCVn-hzt_NGdREfb-M4rVtbKn0aI/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). Environmental Review Required Before Project Implementation  |  | | --- | | The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider all potential environmental impacts for federally funded projects before the project is approved.  For all Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs, an environmental review must be completed before actions are approved, such as site preparation or ground disturbance. These programs include, **but are not limited to**, the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program and farm loans. If project implementation begins before FSA has completed an environmental review, the request will be denied. Although there are exceptions regarding the Stafford Act and emergencies, it’s important to wait until you receive written approval of your project proposal before starting any actions.  Applications cannot be approved until FSA has copies of all permits and plans. Contact your local FSA office early in your planning process to determine what level of environmental review is required for your program application so that it can be completed timely. |  Malted Grains and Maple Syrup Eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loans Malted small grains and maple syrup are now eligible for Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).  FSFLs provide low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.  Eligible malted small grains include barley, oats, rice, rye and wheat. Maple sap is used to produce maple syrup.  The low-interest funds can be used for:   * bottler or filling systems for maple syrup, excluding containers * equipment to improve, maintain, or monitor the quality of stored FSFL commodities, such as cleaners, moisture testers, heat detectors, along with a proposed storage facility * handling and drying equipment determined by the County Committee to be needed and essential to the proper functioning of a storage system * electrical equipment, such as pumps, lighting, motors, and wiring, integral to the proper operation of the storage and handling equipment, excluding installing electric service to the electrical meter.   FSFLs are not available for the actual processing of the small grain into the malted commodity or maple sap into maple syrup. Additionally, purchased commodities are not eligible for FSFLs.  The following storage and handling equipment is ineligible for FSFLs:   * boiling equipment * feed handling and processing equipment * production and feed facilities * structures of a temporary nature not having a useful life of the term of the loan * maple sap tubing and pumping systems.   Loans up to $50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between $50,000 and $100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding $100,000 require additional security.  You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.  For more information, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdi9wcmljZXN1cHBvcnQ_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.e4DT1prorXwaemW6IOPlasHp2p_BQQP-BlMv_OwYD_Q/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). Know your Final Planting Dates  |  | | --- | | All producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for more information on the final planting date for specific crops. The final planting dates vary by crop, planting period and county so please contact your local FSA office for a list of county-specific planting deadlines. The timely planting of a crop, by the final planting date, may prevent loss of program benefits. |  Transitioning Expiring CRP Land to Beginning, Veteran or Underserved Farmers and Ranchers CRP contract holders are encouraged to transition their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to beginning, veteran or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers through the Transition Incentives Program (TIP). TIP provides annual rental payments to the landowner or operator for up to two additional years after the CRP contract expires.  CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants must agree to sell, have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long term (at least five years) land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who is not a family member.  Beginning, veteran or social disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and CRP participants may enroll in TIP beginning two years before the expiration date of the CRP contract. The TIP application must be submitted prior to completing the lease or sale of the affected lands. New landowners or renters that return the land to production must use sustainable grazing or farming methods.  For more information, contact your Local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.VQxgEfqXuA7R0gmk1J7Cz7Q8ci0BXyczXG1WQIKgdug/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security  |  | | --- | | Farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct or guaranteed loans are responsible for maintaining loan collateral. Borrowers must obtain prior consent or approval from FSA or the guaranteed lender for any transaction that affects real estate security. These transactions include, but are not limited to:   * Leases of any kind * Easements of any kind * Subordinations * Partial releases * Sales   Failure to meet or follow the requirements in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.  It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, read [Your FSA Farm Loan Compass](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvQXNzZXRzL1VTREEtRlNBLVB1YmxpYy91c2RhZmlsZXMvRmFybS1Mb2FuLVByb2dyYW1zL3BkZnMvbG9hbi1zZXJ2aWNpbmcvZmFybV9sb2FuX2NvbXBhc3NfOS0yMi0xNy5wZGY_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.qLTp3dxPVd4TUAWc0vbnjm6xrFFW8gB2ebUCs6kqKRQ/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). |  Disaster Set-Aside Program for Farm Loan Borrowers Farm Service Agency (FSA) borrowers with farms located in designated primary or contiguous disaster areas who are unable to make their scheduled FSA loan payments should consider the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) program.  DSA is available to producers who suffered losses as a result of a natural disaster and relieves immediate and temporary financial stress. FSA is authorized to consider setting aside the portion of a payment/s needed for the operation to continue on a viable scale.  Borrowers must have at least two years left on the term of their loan in order to qualify.  Borrowers have eight months from the date of the disaster designation to submit a complete application. The application must include a written request for DSA signed by all parties liable for the debt along with production records and financial history for the operating year in which the disaster occurred. FSA may request additional information from the borrower in order to determine eligibility.  All farm loans must be current or less than 90 days past due at the time the DSA application is complete. Borrowers may not set aside more than one installment on each loan.  The amount set-aside, including interest accrued on the principal portion of the set-aside, is due on or before the final due date of the loan.  For more information, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.jfWeJQmrizgKRCt0owhQu6uQJj5IENClOCb_Jj1hcSY/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). Overview of Emergency Disaster Declarations and Designations  |  | | --- | | Farmers and ranchers know all too well that natural disasters can be a common, and likely a costly, variable to their operation. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has emergency assistance programs to provide assistance when disasters strike, and for some of those programs, a disaster designation may be the eligibility trigger.  FSA administers four types of disaster designations.  **USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation**   * The designation process can be initiated by individual farmers, local government officials, State governors, State agriculture commissions, tribal councils or the FSA State Executive Director * This designation is triggered by a 30-percent or greater production loss to at least one crop because of a natural disaster, or at least one producer who sustained individual losses because of a natural disaster and is unable to obtain commercial financing to cover those losses * In 2012, USDA developed a fast-track process for disaster declarations for severe drought. This provides for a nearly automatic designation when, during the growing season, any portion of a county meets the D2 (Severe Drought) drought intensity value for eight consecutive weeks or a higher drought intensity value for any length of time as reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor ([http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTYsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vZHJvdWdodG1vbml0b3IudW5sLmVkdT91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.Qg93trVKBDK6doEdiIiueLMmA1FZcNIuxN7jXZov-Ew/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l))   **Administrator’s Physical Loss Notification**   * This designation is initiated by the FSA State Executive Director. * The designation is triggered by physical damage and losses because of a natural disaster, including but not limited to dead livestock, collapsed buildings, and destroyed farm structures.   **Presidential Designation**   * A Presidential major disaster designation and emergency declaration is initiated by the Governor of the impacted state through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). * This designation is triggered by damage and losses caused by a disaster of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capability of the State and local governments.   **Quarantine Designation**   * This designation is requested of the Secretary of Agriculture by the FSA State Executive Director. * A quarantine designation is triggered by damage and losses caused by the effects of a plant or animal quarantine approved by the Secretary under the Plant Protection Act or animal quarantine laws.   All four types of designations immediately trigger the availability of low-interest Emergency loans to eligible producers in all primary and contiguous counties. FSA borrowers in these counties who are unable to make their scheduled payments on any debt may be authorized to have certain set asides. Additional disaster assistance requiring a designation may also be provided by new programs in the future.  For more information on FSA disaster programs and disaster designations, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/disaster](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmZzYS51c2RhLmdvdi9kaXNhc3Rlcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.N6vDM6qiDNvd1xkQ0ircjsA9Gi3HBrCyvXgWDFt-eAc/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). |  USDA Packages Disaster Protection with Loans to Benefit Specialty Crop and Diversified Producers Free basic coverage available for new and underserved loan applicants  Producers who apply for Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loans will be offered the opportunity to enroll in the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). NAP is available to producers who grow noninsurable crops and is especially important to fruit, vegetable, and other specialty crop growers.  New, underserved and limited income specialty growers who apply for farm loans could qualify for basic loss coverage at no cost.  The basic disaster coverage protects at 55 percent of the market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of production. Covered “specialty” crops include vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, hay, forage, grazing and energy crops.  FSA allows beginning, underserved or limited income producers to obtain NAP coverage up to 90 days after the normal application closing date when they also apply for FSA credit.  Producers can also protect value-added production, such as organic or direct market crops, at their fair market value in those markets.  Targeted underserved groups eligible for free or discounted coverage include American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, and women.  FSA offers a variety of loan products, including farm ownership loans, operating loans and microloans that have a streamlined application process.  NAP coverage is not limited to FSA borrowers, beginning, limited resource, or underserved farmers. Any producer who grows eligible NAP crops can purchase coverage. To learn more, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit [fsa.usda.gov/nap](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vZnNhLnVzZGEuZ292L25hcD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.y5GDGX7UxoJwZVmlx0L8tP8ZnhoOsNhLrI7bEsbbd3E/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) or [fsa.usda.gov/farmloans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mc2EudXNkYS5nb3YvcHJvZ3JhbXMtYW5kLXNlcnZpY2VzL2Zhcm0tbG9hbi1wcm9ncmFtcy9pbmRleD91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.M_dpPLJMMOdVahpwBEnf3-h_fTfe7QKRX51pPC7Jk2Q/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). Current Interest Rates for May  * [Commodity Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..rAiQ77o0OXAwe4q-twPcFZdQfC9ESjuoB7EL4WXbPoQ/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) (less than one year disbursed): 2.750 % * [Farm Storage Facility Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..RjFqHmO-QoTqNrF9oXuDsBZ2J4ZhyrHdP63_EPeUBBY/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l):                  Three-year loan terms: 2.625%                 Five-year loan terms: 2.625%                 Seven-year loan terms:2.625%                 Ten-year loan terms: 2.625%                 Twelve-year loan terms: 2.625%   * [Sugar Storage Facility Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..qlEYAv-6CfyRpyeZULMSeY7NEB6hITd_rE2JFvlKKyg/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) (15 years): 2.750% * [Farm Operating Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..zAf55su4Du2ADQYdwb1qoLsokMSSrOW1MdWlZfAu50o/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) (Direct): 2.875% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..bpHddeVXJfaH0AekMwS4cBajHzfvmw-_jBGu_Pb92sI/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) (Direct): 3.375% * [Farm Ownership Loans](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..YVLyvrqMyvhhwhxEPhkBAroNWtjLFz6zMhrfYnCQSWo/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) (Down Payment): 1.500% * [Emergency Loan](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..zgYHrNbwcSIC1eMktl_E2v3J1A1OeNoXsk88xRgIMRI/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l) (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750%  Important Dates May 13 **-**Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment deadline  May 16 - Extended Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Emergency Forest                Restoration Program (EFRP) Sign-up deadlines. “(In Applicable Parishes)”  May 30-  Closed in Observance of Memorial Day  May 31 - Deadline to apply for 2021 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL)  June 1 - Status Date for determination of Minor Child and Change in Farming Operation  July 15- Acreage reporting deadline for spring seeded crops.  Aug. 1 – Deadline to request Farm reconstitutions  Aug. 2 -  Last Day to file nomination forms for COC Election at the Local USDA Service                     Center  Aug. 5  - Producers may apply for CLEAR30 through August 5, 2022  FSA now offers SMS texting; receive text message alerts on your cell phone regarding important deadlines, reporting requirements and updates. Call your local Service Center to schedule an appointment. You can find contact information at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjA1MDkuNTc2MTc2MjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYXJtZXJzLmdvdi93b3JraW5nLXdpdGgtdXMvc2VydmljZS1jZW50ZXItbG9jYXRvcj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.-XC9w09lf-eDKsQ8gaiy3AoOEVfJ8GV_RRQaJueX1RY/s/1837074945/br/131013263355-l). | |  | | Louisiana FSA State Office 3737 Government Street Alexandria, LA 70508  Phone: 318-473-7721 Fax: 1-844-325-6942   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Christine Normand** Acting State Executive Director Administrative Officer [christine.normand@usda.gov](mailto:christine.normand@usda.gov) | **Terrick Boley** Farm Loan Program Chief [terrick.boley@usda.gov](mailto:terrick.boley@usda.gov) | | **DeWanna Pitman** Farm Program Chief [dewanna.pitman@usda.gov](mailto:dewanna.pitman@usda.gov) |  | |  |  | |  |  | | |